

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 319

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA: Provides relative to instruction to certain students in public secondary schools concerning the state's safe haven relinquishments law

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:81(Q) and 3996(B)(21), relative to instruction to students in public
3 secondary schools concerning the state's safe haven relinquishments law; to provide
4 applicability; to provide guidelines for such instruction; to provide an effective date;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(Q) and 3996(B)(21) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §81. General powers of city and parish school boards

9 * * *

10 Q.(1) Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall provide each
11 school year to high school students enrolled in Health Education at least thirty
12 minutes of age and grade appropriate classroom instruction relative to the state's safe
13 haven relinquishments law, Children's Code Articles 1149 through 1160, which
14 provides a mechanism whereby any parent may relinquish the care of an infant who
15 is not more than thirty days old to the state in safety and anonymity and without fear
16 of prosecution.

17 (2) Such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing
18 students with the following information:

(a) An explanation that relinquishment of an infant means to give over possession or control of the infant to other specified persons as provided by law with the settled intent to forego all parental responsibilities.

(b) The process to be followed by a parent in making a relinquishment.

(c) The general locations where an infant may be left in the care of certain others.

(d) The toll-free number established by the Louisiana Department of Social Services to direct individuals to designated emergency care facilities.

(e) The available options if a parent is unable to travel to a designated emergency care facility.

(f) The process by which a relinquishing parent may reclaim parental rights to the infant and the timelines established for taking this action.

(3) For the purposes of this Subsection, the term city, parish, or other local public school board shall mean the governing authority of any public secondary school.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(21) Teaching regarding the state's safe haven relinquishments law, R.S.
17:81(Q).

* * *

- 1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2009; if vetoed by the governor
2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
3 2009, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Willmott

HB No. 319

Abstract: Requires public school governing authorities to provide to high school students enrolled in Health Education at least 30 minutes of age and grade appropriate instruction each school year relative to the state's safe haven relinquishments law (Ch.C. Arts. 1149-1160). Also provides guidelines for such instruction.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities to provide to high school students enrolled in Health Education at least 30 minutes of age and grade appropriate classroom instruction each school year relative to the state's safe haven relinquishments law (which provides a means by which any parent may relinquish the care of an infant who is not more than 30 days old to the state in safety and anonymity and without fear of prosecution).

Specifies that such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing students with the following information:

- (1) An explanation that relinquishment of an infant means to give over possession or control of the infant who is not more than 30 days old to other specified persons as provided by law with the settled intent to forego all parental responsibilities.
- (2) The process to be followed by a parent in making a relinquishment.
- (3) The general locations where an infant may be left in the care of certain others.
- (4) The toll-free number established by the state Dept. of Social Services to direct individuals to designated emergency care facilities.
- (5) The available options if a parent is unable to travel to a designated emergency care facility.
- (6) The process by which a relinquishing parent may reclaim parental rights to the infant and the timelines established for taking this action.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(Q) and 3996(B)(21))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Requires such instruction to be provided to high school students enrolled in Health Education instead of students enrolled in grades 10 and 12.